

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 13, 1989

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 89-92

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE NEED PENALTY EVALUATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER DATED JULY 7, 1988
ALL COUNTY LETTER 88-105 DATED AUGUST 17, 1988
ALL COUNTY LETTER 88-136 DATED OCTOBER 17, 1988

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Immediate Need Penalty Evaluation Project (see ACL 88-105, dated August 17, 1988) has been extended for one additional year through July 31, 1990.

As you know, data gathered by the project is to be used to evaluate the need for the financial penalty imposed on the county for failure to determine AFDC eligibility within 15 working days of granting immediate need. In addition, the reported statistics on the number of requests for immediate need and the number of approved immediate need cases are being collected to assess the workload impact of immediate need on county intake resources. However, based on the reports received, we have serious concerns regarding the reliability of the data being submitted. These concerns were raised at the June meeting of the County Welfare Directors Association Eligibility and Grant Committee at which time the full committee voted to extend the project until at least a six month period of reliable data has been obtained.

The Order waiving State AFDC regulations at EAS 40-129.436 has also been extended through July 31, 1990. The waiver applies only to those Counties which have elected to participate as Project Counties.

The following Counties have elected to participate as Project Counties.

Alameda	Amador
Fresno	Lassen
Los Angeles	San Benito
Sacramento	Santa Clara
San Joaquin	Solano
Shasta	Ventura

All other Counties are considered to be Control Counties for the purposes of the Project.

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS:

Reporting procedures for the Project will remain the same. However, the following information is being provided to clarify reporting expectations and procedures.

TEMP 1750 PART A: PROJECT/CONTROL COUNTIES

1. Total number of immediate need requests.

The total number of immediate need requests includes:

- a. all applicants who request immediate need at application either orally or on the CA 1;
- b. all applicants who request immediate need subsequent to application and prior to the granting of aid; and
- c. all applicants who the CWD identify as being in immediate need whether or not the applicant formally makes a request.

2. Total number of approved immediate need requests.

The total number of approved immediate need requests include all applicants identified in #1 that:

- a. are granted an immediate need payment; OR
- b. are granted AFDC on an expedited basis in lieu of an immediate need payment.*

*For a discussion of immediate need payments versus expedited AFDC grants see item #6.

3. Timeframe to determine AFDC eligibility for approved immediate need requests.

The timeframe by number (%) of cases to determine eligibility refers to AFDC eligibility. One, five and 15 days refer to working days and 30 and 45 days refer to calendar days from the date of request. Date of requests equals 0. Number 3(d) of the Temp 1750 should be completed by noting the number of cases in which AFDC eligibility was completed between the 16th working day and the thirtieth calendar day. When necessary, Counties may substitute calendar days for working days assuming seven (7) calendar days for a normal five (5) day work week. Under this system, 15 working days will always equal 21 calendar days regardless of the actual number of working days in the time period.

TEMP 1750 PART B: PROJECT COUNTIES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**4. Reason for immediate need request**

There may be more than one reason for the request. The Counties should list the primary reason given by the applicant. If the county is unable to discern a single primary reason, then all reasons given should be listed.

The "emergency" designation is intended to identify requests which would have qualified for immediate need under the pre- WRL v. Woods definition of immediate need, e.g., imminent eviction, utility turnoff, etc.

5. Amount of liquid resources

Only cash, or resources readily converted to cash should be counted.

6. Type of Payment

The \$100 immediate need payment (6a) and prorated grant amount based on immediate need (6b) refer to payments based on presumptive eligibility. Expedited aid payment (6c) refers to payments based on full eligibility determination. An expedited grant issued by the next working day to satisfy an immediate need request should be captured as an immediate need approval. If the County is unable to authorize AFDC within the immediate need timeframe, an immediate need payment based on presumptive eligibility must be made.

7. Reason for Denial of Immediate Need

There may be multiple reasons for denial. The Counties are to list the primary reasons for denial with the exception of "withdrawal." Withdrawals should be listed as a separate category from denials.

8. Disposition of case

Disposition of case refers to the AFDC application for all approved immediate need requests.

REPORTING PROCEDURES:

The completed report forms (Temp. 1750) will continue to be due 45 days following the last day of the report month. The reports should be submitted to:

Statistical Services Section
State Department of Social Services
M.S. 19-81
744 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Should you have any questions regarding the data elements, data collection and/or reporting requirements, please contact Mr. Levy St. Mary, Statistical Services Section, at (916) 445-2135. All other questions regarding the project should be directed to Ms. Susan Wyckoff, AFDC Policy Bureau, at (916) 324-2003.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Horel", written in a cursive style.

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director